REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 17 and 18 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

Prior Art Rejections:

In the final Office Action, claims 1 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0086645 to Diao et al. (hereinafter "Diao"); and claims 2, 3 and 9-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diao in view of U.S. patent 6,678,639 to Little et al. (hereinafter "Little"). These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the reasons below.

Presently pending independent claim 1 now recites:

identifying computer configuration changes in a computer system, the computer configuration changes being identified by using a configuration tracking application installed either locally on the computer system or on a network on which the computer system is communicatively connected;

obtaining performance metrics for the computer system before and after computer configuration changes implemented in the computer system, the performance metrics being obtained by a performance collector application installed on the computer system; and

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assessing effectiveness of the computer configuration changes based on the obtained performance metrics, wherein the assessing is made by assigning a weight value that represents a relative value of performance improvement based on implementation of each of the computer configuration changes as compared to performance improvements from other configuration changes.

The above-highlighted features that have been added to claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested by Diao. While Applicants strongly feel that the effectiveness of a change is never explicitly analyzed in Diao, which is required by the invention as claimed in the previously pending independent claim 1, that claim has been amended to more explicitly recite features of the identifying, obtaining, and assessing steps recited in that claim, whereby such features are not disclosed or suggested by Diao.

Accordingly, presently pending independent claim 1, as well as presently pending independent claims 9 and 17 that have been amended in a similar manner, are not anticipated by Diao, whereby Little does not rectify these deficiencies of Diao.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 2, that claim now recites <u>receiving a user input with respect to which ones of a plurality of collectors are to be utilized to obtain the performance metrics for the computer system, the plurality of collectors providing an additional role of running tests on various components of the network</u>. See, for example, paragraph 0039 of the specification, whereby such features are not taught or suggested by either Diao or by Little.

Little teaches an automated problem identification system, in which a computing environment is analyzed and compared to an internal rules database. The internal rules database contains the various problems that are known to exist on different configurations of the computing environment. (Abstract) Little teaches generating a prioritized list of problems or non-optimized aspects of the system and listing them in order of severity. (column 2, lines 9-42) There is no teaching or suggestion in Little of <u>receiving a user input with respect to which ones of a plurality of collectors are to be utilized to obtain the performance metrics for</u>

the computer system, the plurality of collectors providing an additional role of running tests on various components of the network.

Accordingly, presently pending dependent claim 2, as well as presently pending dependent claims 10 and 18 that have been amended in a similar manner, are patentable over the combined teachings of Diao and Little.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the final Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date _November 13, 2008_   By _Phillip J. Articola_

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22879
Telephone: (202) 672-5485
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

William T. Ellis
Registration No. 26,874

Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819